

*CLAIM AMENDMENTS*

1. (Previously Presented) A pipe fitting comprising a hollow body and at least one open end for connection to a pipe, the open end including

an internally threaded portion having a wall with a thickness between internal and external diameters of the internally threaded portion, and internal screw threads for connection to a pipe, and

an integral extension collar adjacent the internally threaded portion, having an inner diameter larger than the internal diameter of the internally threaded portion, for surrounding unused trailing screw threads of a pipe connected to the pipe fitting and forming an annular gap with a pipe connected to the fitting for holding a sealing compound, wherein the extension collar has a wall thickness substantially equal to the wall thickness of the internally threaded portion, and an outer diameter larger than the outer diameter of the internally threaded portion.

2. (Currently Amended) The pipe fitting as claimed in claim 1, wherein the internal screw threads are tapered outwards with respect to an axis of the open end.

3. (Previously Presented) The pipe fitting as claimed in claim 1, made of a galvanized iron material.

4. (Previously Presented) The pipe fitting as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fitting is selected from the group consisting of an elbow joint, a T joint, a straight joint, and an end cap.

5. (Original) The pipe fitting as claimed in claim 2, made of a galvanized iron material.

6. (Previously Presented) The pipe fitting as claimed in claim 2, wherein the fitting is selected from the group consisting of an elbow joint, a T joint, a straight joint, and an end cap.